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FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE DIA INFO AMMAN JERUSALEM JIDDA KUWAIT
LONDON MOSCOW PARIS TEHRAN TEL AVIV USUN USCINCEUR FROM
BEIRUT 14 JUN 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7044

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SUBJ: FEDAYEEN AND LEFTIST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN LEBANON

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE NOTE CONTINUING INTENSE PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN BY FEDAYEEN, LEBANESE LEFT AND SYRIANS AGAINST
ALLEGED GOL HARASSMENT AND MALTREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS
HAS LATELY DEVOTED INCREASING ATTENTION TO CHARGES THAT
USG AND ISRAEL, IN CAHOOTS WITH LEBANESE AUTHORITIES,
ARE PREPARING NEW ONSLAUGHT TO " LIQUIDATE" FEDAYEEN
PRESENCE HERE. JUN 13 INCIDENT ON LEBANESE- ISRAELI
BORDER SEEMS LIKELY TO REINFORCE IMPACT THIS PROPAGANDA
AND CONTRIBUTE TO HEIGHTENED GOL- FEDAYEEN TENSIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PFLP ORGAN AL HADAF, PICKING UP SIMILAR THEMES ALREADY
VOICED BY SOV AMBASSADOR AND PLAYED UP IN LOCAL COMMUNIST
PRESS (BEIRUT A-115, JUN 3), WARNED ON JUN 2 THAT CONTINUING
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GOL PROVACATIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS FORM PART OF US-INSPIRED PLAN TO SPARK SECOND ROUND OF FIGHTING WITH FEDAYEEN. SINCE THEN, THIS THEORY HAS GAINED INCREASING CURRENCY IN FEDAYEEN AND LEFTIST CIRCLES HERE -- WITH CONSIDERABLE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM SYRIANS. PRO- FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS DWELT REPEATEDLY SINCE JUN 4 ON LIKELIHOOD OF NEW ISRAELI MOVES AIMED AT FOMENTING FURTHER GOL- FEDAYEEN CLASHES. ON JUN 13, PAPER REPORTED THAT " INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OF BIG EAST EUROPEAN STATE" HAD WARNED FEDAYEEN OF IDF PREPARATIONS FOR ANOTHER APR 10- STYLE OPERATION AGAINST BEIRUT AND THAT USG, WHICH " BELIEVES CURRENT GOL- FEDAYEEN CEASEFIRE WON' T LAST BEYOND SEPTEMBER", HAS ALLOCATED DOLS 60 MILLION IN CIA FUNDS TOWARD ELIMINATION OF FEDAYEEN PRESENCE IN LEBANON. SAID THIS IS DESPITE FACT THAT USG REALIZES DAMAGE TO LEBANON FROM RENEWED HOSTILITIES WITH FEDAYEEN WOULD BE " CATASTROPHIC". (EMBASSY SPOKESMAN IMMEDIATELY DENIEDTTESE ALLEGATIONS).

2. PLO (WAFI) DAILY BULLETIN SINCE JUN 11 HAS RESUMED ITS FORMER PRACTICE OF ISSUING ALMOST DAILY WARNINGS OF " HEAVY" IDF BUILDUP ALONG SOUTHERN BORDER, COUPLING THIS WITH FREQUENT REPORTS OF ADDITIONAL US ARMS SHIPMENTS TO GOL AND ARRIVALS OF AMERICAN " EXPERTS" APPOINTED TO ASSIST LEBANESE ARMY AGAINST FEDAYEEN. WAFI ALLEGATIONS, AS USUAL, HAVE RECEIVED PROMINENT TREATMENT IN LOCAL LEFTIST PRESS, AS HAS RASH OF ARTICLES IN SARG- CONTROLLED DAMASCUS MEDIA OVER PAST TEN DAYS ALLEGING GOL IS BENT ON PROVOKING NEW CLASHES WITH FEDAYEEN. LEBANESE LEFTIST LEADERS, NOTABLY KAMAL JUMBLATT AND NASSERIST DEPUTY NAJAH WAKIM, HAVE MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ALONG SAME LINES, WITH WAKIM GOING SO FAR AS TO BRAND GOL AS " AMERICAN AGENT". IN ADDITION, WE NOTE ACCUSATION BY PFLP' S SALAH SALAH IN BAGHDAD JUN 6 THAT GOL IS USING PRESENT " BREATHING SPELL" TO PREPARE ANOTHER BLOW AGAINST FEDAYEEN, AS WELL AS RECENT CHARGE BY FEDAYEEN WRITER " ABU IBRAHIM" IN LEFTIST ITALIAN IL MANIFESTO THAT ISRAEL WILL SOON MOUNT SERIES OF OPERATIONS AGAINST FEDAYEEN IN BEIRUT AND NORTH LEBANON IN CONJUNCTION WITH RENEWED IDF RAIDS ACROSS SOUTHERN BORDER.

3. ENTIRE CAMPAIGN RECEIVED ADDITIONAL IMPETUS JUN 13
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WHEN INDEPENDENT BEIRUT WEEKLY AS SAYYAD QUOTED SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM CLAIMING SARG HAS INFO THAT GOL PLANS NEW CONFRONTATION WITH FEDAYEEN NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER (SEE SEPTEL). (SAME MAGAZINE, INCIDENTALLY, WENT ON TO ALLEGE THAT " HIGH LEBANESE OFFICIALS" ARE BITTER OVER " NEGATIVE ATTITUDE" SHOWN BY USG IN RESPONSE TO PRESSING GOL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE DURING AND AFTER MAY

FIGHTING, AND THAT THEY MAKING " UNFAVORABLE COMPARISONS" BETWEEN " UNJUSTIFIED ABSENCE" OF US AMBASSADOR AND " FRIENDLY ROLE" PLAYED BY HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART. JUNE 14 AN NAHAR, ON OTHER HAND, CARRIED REPORT THAT SOV PREMIER KOSYGIN WILL VISIT SYRIA FOR JUL 4 CEREMONIES CONNECTED WITH COMPLETION FIRST STAGE OF EUPHRATES DAM AND THAT HE LIKELY TO MEET WITH ' ARAFAT WHILE THERE.)

4. REPORTS OF JUN 13 CLASH BETWEEN FEDAYEEN AND IDF PATROL ON SOUTHERN BORDER, IN WHICH IDF REPORTEDLY LOST ONE DEAD AND THREE WOUNDED, WITH ONE FEDAYEEN KILLED AND ANOTHER CAPTURED, HAVE LENT FURTHER FUEL TO ABOVE CAMPAIGN. JUN 14 BEIRUT PRESS FULL OF FEVERISH SPECULATION RE LIKELIHOOD OF ISRAELI REPRISALS, ALONG WITH PREDICTABLE FEDAYEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT THEY HAD " NOTHING TO DO" WITH INCIDENT WHICH WAS " OBVIOUSLY INVENTED" BY ISRAEL AS PRETEXT FOR FURTHER " AGGRESSION."

5. LEBANESE ARMY TELLS US THAT AS BEST THEY CAN ASCERTAIN JUN 13 BORDER CLASH TOOK PLACE AS ANNOUNCED BY ISRAEL. LEBANESE OBSERVERS HEARD SEVERAL BURSTS OF SMALL- ARMS FIRE AROUND 0800 Z WHICH APPEARED TO BE CENTERED NEAR SPOT ABOUT ONE KILIMETER INSIDE ISRAEL, SOUTHWEST OF LEBANESE VILLAGE OF RUMAYSH (3305 N-3522 E). LEBANESE ARMY PATROL SEARCHED AREA ON LEBANESE SIDE BUT APPARENTLY FOUND NOTHING AND RETURNED TO ISRAEL WITHOUT INCIDENT. LEBANESE ARMY CLAIMS TO HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT FEDAYEEN ORIGINATED FROM LEBANON BUT CANNOT CHALLENGE SUCH ASSUMPTION.

6. COMMENT: LEBANESE ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT INCIDENT FOR TWO REASONS, ONE BEING FEAR OF IDF COUNTERACTION BUT SECOND AND MORE IMPORTANT BEING FEAR THAT INCIDENT MAY SIGNIFY BEGINNING OF DELIBERATE FEDAYEEN EFFORT PROVOKE TROUBLE FOR LEBANESE AUTHORITIES. COMING HARD ON HEELS
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OF PROAGANDA LINE SUMMARIZED ABOVE, INCIDENT WILL APPEAR TO MANY FEDAYEEN AS CONFIRMATION OF ACCURACY OF PREDICTIONS THAT ISRAEL (AND UNITED STATES) PLANNING ANOTHER ATTACK ON FEDAYEEN INSIDE LEBANON, AND THAT LEBANESE ARMY WILL AGAIN NOT LIFT FINGER TO STOP SUCH ATTACKS. EVEN IN JUN 13 INCIDENT IS NOT START OF FEDAYEEN CAMPAIGN HEAT UP BORDER AREA, IT SERVES TO HEAT UP EMOTIONS OF FEDAYEEN THROUGHOUT LEBANON AND INCREASE CHANCES OF ANOTHER EXPLOSION AT TIME WHEN GOL NOT RPT NOT PREPARED FOR IT.
HOUGHTON

UNQUOTE ROGERS

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